

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

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R 021400Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7338

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY ROME

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KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT AND DOHA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BX, EXP, SA

SUBJECT: BECHTEL SIGNS EASTERN PROVINCE CONTRACT

REF: (A) DHAHRAN 429; (B) JIDDA A-35

SUMMARY: INTERNATIONAL BECHTEL SIGNED A MAJOR PLANNING
CONTRACT WITH SAG JUNE 2 FOR THE EASTERN PROVINCE OF
SAUDI ARABIA. END SUMMARY

1. INTERNATIONAL BECHTEL VICE-PRESIDENT DAVID GOERZ
INFORMED EMBASSY CONFIDENTIALLY THAT MINISTER OF FINANCE
PRINCE MUS'AD SIGNED CONTRACT FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN EASTERN PROVINCE OF SAUDI ARABIA FOLLOWING ONE MONTH
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MARATHON NEGOTIATIONS IN RIYADH AND JIDDA ON JUNE 2.

2. CONTRACT CALLS FOR INDUSTRIAL, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONCEPTUAL PLANNING FOR ENTIRE EASTERN PROVINCE OF SAUDI ARABIA WHERE MAJOR HYDROCARBON RESOURCES AND ENERGY SUPPLIES ARE AVAILABLE. GOERZ NOTED THAT CONTRACT IS FOR "IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING" AND WILL GO FAR BEYOND DESIGN OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BASIC INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAM OF SAUDI ARABIA. IT WILL, HOWEVER, BE AIMED AT THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF JUBAIL AND ITS ENVIRONS.

3. CONCEPT AND PLANNING EFFORT WILL REQUIRE 18 MONTHS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIES TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR SELECTION FROM AMONG PROJECT PROPOSALS.

4. GOERZ NOTED SIGNIFICANCE THAT MINISTER MUS'AD HIMSELF HAD SIGNED CONTRACT, THUS LIFTING IT ABOVE LEVEL OF BUREAUCRATIC INFIGHTING BETWEEN PETROMIN AND THE CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION. MAJOR PART OF NEGOTIATIONS IN RIYADH WERE HELD WITH HISHAM NAZER OF CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION, ABDUL AZIZ QURAYSHI, CENTRAL PERSONNEL BUREAU, AND VICE-MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE MUAHAMMAD ABA AL-KHAYL. MINISTER OF PETROLEUM SIGNIFICANTLY DID NOT, RPT NOT HAVE MAJOR PART IN NEGOTIATIONS.

5. BECHTEL HAS HAD NO RPT NO FURTHER TALKS ON SUBJECT OF WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZATION STUDY (REF B). GOERZ WOULD NOT EXCLUDE EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.
BIRD

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